

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 12, 14, 18, and 19 have been amended to reinstate their original claim language with correction of minor typographical errors present in the original claims. New claims 27-32 have been added to reinstate the subject matter recited in original claims 4-7, 16, and 21, respectively, which were previously canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 8-15, 17-20, and 22-32 are pending and at issue.

Incorrect Specification Examined

This application is a 371 of International Application No. PCT/US00/04140, filed February 16, 2000, as acknowledged by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in a Filing Receipt mailed January 18, 2002. *See Exhibit A.*

In the April 21, 2005 telephone conversation between Examiner Gollamudi S. Kishore and Dianna Goldenson, the Examiner stated that the specification thus far examined in connection with this application has not been PCT/US00/04140. Rather, the Examiner stated that an unrelated International Application (No. PCT/US97/17640), which was stamped as received by the PTO on July 24, 2001, was placed in the PTO file for the present application and subsequently examined. According to the Examiner, the PCT/US00/04140 specification is not in the PTO file and has not been examined. Therefore, none of the original claims in the present application were examined in view of the proper specification from PCT/US00/04140.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants have amended the present claims to reinstate all subject matter recited in the original claims. Additionally, Applicants request that all of the rejections set forth in the April 15, 2005 Office Action be withdrawn, and that pending claims 1-3, 8-15, 17-20, and 22-32 be properly examined in view of the PCT/US00/04140 specification.

A complete copy of PCT/US00/04140 (published as International Publication No. WO 00/48572) is being concurrently filed with an accompanying Letter. *See Exhibit B (Courtesy Copy of PCT/US00/04140).*

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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